(e) if so, the details thereof and what are the resource agencies identified to impart such training; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There is no threat to the structural stability of the temple complex. However due to inherent porous nature of the Khondalite rock used in the construction of the temple distress is noticed at lower most row of the superstructure at the south east side. The exterior surface of the temple is also exposed to constant saline action due to salt laden winds from the sea which is another cause of deterioration.

(b) Annual conservation programme is prepared based on the priorities and conservation needs of the monuments. Depending upon the condition of a monument whenever distress is observed, structural repairs are taken up.

(c) ASI has the requisite expertise in conservation and preservation of monuments.

(d) to (f) Restoration works are carried out by engaging traditional skilled artisans and no training programme is envisaged for such artisians.

In so far as the ASI personnel engaged in conservation/restoration are concerned, in service programmes for upgrading skills are organized by Institute of Archaeology. They are also deputed to attend national and international courses, symposiums or workshops on conservation related matters.

Infrastructure status for hotels

*59. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hotel and Restaurant Association of India has demanded infrastructure status for hotels, if so, the details of their demand;

(b) whether the demand has been considered and any decision taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Association of India and Hotel Association of India have been demanding for infrastructure status for the hotel industry as has been granted to other sectors like roads, power, telecommunication, airports, ports etc. This benefit allows income tax holiday for ten consecutive assessment years. This concession, it is urged, will provide the incentive to the industry to meet the acute shortage of hotel rooms in the country and is justified in view of the fact that hotels are capital intensive and have a long gestation period. Tourism sector has multiplier effect on the economy and large employment creation potential. However, this demand has not been agreed to by the Government.

National Mission for Monuments

*60. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to launch the National Mission for Monuments;

(b) if so, the details of the mandate;

(c) what would be the procedure of selecting the monuments for conservation;

(d) in what manner Government propose to generate resources through non-budgetary sources;

(e) whether Government have identified the resource agencies to implement the Mission and in what manner Government propose to get the requisite expertise to implement such a Mission indicating the details thereof; and

(f) whether Government propose to involve the NGOs and Civil Society Organisation in the Mission, if so, what would be the procedure to identify the same?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to launch a National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities.